



Veramaris—DSM-Evonik Joint Venture—Wins F3 Fish Oil Challenge

Contestants collectively helped conserve 2 billion fish from use in aquaculture feed

CHENNAI, INDIA (Oct. 23, 2019)—The Future of Fish Feed announced today that the Netherlands-based joint venture Veramaris has won the F3 Fish Oil Challenge for selling the most “fish-free” oil for use in aquaculture feed. Veramaris CEO Karim Kurnaly received the \$200,000 prize during a special award ceremony at the Global Aquaculture Alliance’s GOAL conference in Chennai, India.

The [F3 Fish Oil Challenge](#) is an incentive prize designed to help accelerate commercial-scale ingredients for aquaculture feed that meet the nutritional requirements of fish to produce healthy seafood for consumers without utilizing wild-caught fish.

Contestants of the F3 Fish Oil Challenge sold a combined total of roughly 850,000 kilograms of “fish-free” oil during the contest, equivalent to saving over 2 billion forage fish from use in aquaculture feed—the largest amount of fish ever conserved through a contest.

“We are pleased with the efforts made by all of the contestants to innovate and sell fish-oil alternatives for aquafeeds that don’t rely on ocean resources,” said Kevin Fitzsimmons, F3 Challenge chair and professor at the University of Arizona. “I know this is just the beginning for Veramaris and others to address a major bottleneck in supply chain for aquafeeds support healthy farm-raised fish and healthy oceans in the future.”

[Veramaris](#), a joint venture between DSM and Evonik, sold nearly 770,000 kilograms—or roughly 90 percent of the total contest sales—of its algal oil rich in EPA and DHA Omega-3 and ARA (arachidonic acid) produced at its pilot-scale facilities in Slovakia and the United States.

With its full-scale algal EPA+DHA omega-3 production facility in Blair, Nebraska, USA up and running, Veramaris is ready to support the seafood industry’s increasing efforts for improved sustainability and healthy nutrition with its natural marine algae oil rich in the essential omega-3 EPA and DHA fatty acids. Veramaris’ breakthrough technology enables expanding the future supply of healthy seafood.

“We share in the ambition to support continued sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry, as an efficient means to produce healthy food to nourish a growing population. Our breakthrough solution adds to the supply of healthy omega-3 nutrients and enables growth without increasing pressure on limited marine resources,” said Veramaris CEO Karim Kurnaly. “I have to thank those courageous leaders within the retail, processing, salmon farming and feed industry for their collaboration and for taking steps towards ensuring a more sustainable future for aquaculture. It has been our pleasure to participate and we hope to amplify our mission with the recent opening of our new world-scale facility in Blair, Nebraska.”

Consumers require high levels of the essential fatty acids EPA and DHA omega-3 for brain and nerve development, and yet levels in farmed salmon have declined significantly over the past ten years. Veramaris’ algal oil, which contains twice as much EPA and DHA as fish oil, can help reverse the decline and support the seafood’s brand-promise for healthy nutrition.

Earlier this year, the world’s largest Atlantic salmon producer, Norway-based [Mowi](#), committed to test the winning formula from the F3 Fish Oil Challenge, along with China-based Yuehai Feed Group and [AlphaFeed](#). The companies will provide the results of their trials through the [F3 Feed Innovation Network](#) (FIN).

Each year, an estimated 16 million metric tons of wild fish are caught exclusively for use in fish oil and fishmeal. Wild-caught fish are currently the major known source of omega-3 and contain DHA, EPA and ARA—essential fatty acids needed to produce healthy farmed-raised fish.

Without alternative marine animal-free oil sources, the world’s oceans will not be able to keep up with the demand for seafood to feed the growing world population, which could result in major supply chain disruptions in the multi-billion-dollar aquaculture industry as well as ecological collapse.

A recent study published in [Nature Sustainability](#) found that if ‘business as usual’ continues, forage fisheries will reach ecological limits by 2037—in 18 years. The associated ecological collapse will shrink seafood supply from both wild and farmed sources.

The University of Arizona, University of Massachusetts Boston, Cuna del Mar, Synbiobeta, Anthropocene Institute, Dawson Family Fund, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, The Campbell Foundation, Tides Foundation and The National Renderers Association sponsored the contest.

In September, the F3 Future of Fish Feed announced its third contest—the F3 Challenge – Carnivore Edition—is now open to companies or teams that produce and sell “fish-free” feed for farm-raised carnivorous species. A US\$35,000 prize will be awarded in each of three categories—salmonid, shrimp, and other carnivorous species—to the contestant that produces and sells the most feed made without using wild-caught fish or any marine-animal ingredient. Contest registration is open until April 30, 2020.

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About the F3 Challenge

The goal of the F3 Fish Oil Challenge is to accelerate the availability of cost-competitive, viable alternatives to fish oil that provide the essential nutritional components for fish while at the same time helping reduce demand for wild-caught fish feed and enhancing food security. The contest is sponsored by the Future of Fish Feed—or F3—a collaborative effort between NGOs, researchers, and private partnerships to accelerate and support the scaling of innovative, alternative aquaculture feed ingredients. To learn more, visit: <http://www.f3challenge.org/>.

About Veramaris

Veramaris is a 50:50 joint venture of DSM and Evonik for the production of the omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA from natural marine algae. Located in Delft, the Netherlands, Veramaris was launched in 2018, because its parent companies shared a vision: to conserve marine life by using a resource the ocean provides – natural marine microalgae. Producing an algal oil rich in the two essential omega-3 fatty acids EPA and DHA through large-scale fermentation at its facility in Blair, Nebraska, USA, Veramaris enables partners along the value chain to become independent from wild-caught fish and meet the growing demand for animal protein responsibly.

In Other News... The Next F3 Challenge is Open Now!

